

LIBRARY

GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR
1950

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on the

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT

For the Year 1950

R. C. WEBSTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

G. WALMSLEY,
Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1950 - 1951

Chairman :

Councillor W. RUTTER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor H. DOSWELL.

Committee :

Councillors G. A. Monckman, C. E. Normington, A. M. Sagar,
T. E. Seed, W. Slyn, W. Pidgeon, Dr. R. C. U.
Warrington, E. Whalley, S. Whiteside.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Administrative Staff

Medical Officer of Health and
Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5 Division) :
R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :
G. WALMSLEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor (Lancashire County Council) :
Miss HITCHEN, S.R.N., H.V.C.

Clerical Assistant :
Miss B. HEATON.

Pupil Assistant :
K. SHACKLETON, M.R.I.P.H.H.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of Great Harwood.

It will be noticed that during the year, deaths exceeded births. This must lead not only to a decline in the population of the town, but also tends to increase the relative proportion of older people. Both of these factors must in time have far-reaching economic results.

Infant mortality was very low, and not a single death from infantile gastro-enteritis occurred. Coupled with the healthy appearance of the children seen about, this indicates a high standard of child care.

The outbreak of dysentery in the Day Nurseries was troublesome, but had no significant bad effects on health, although no little inconvenience was caused.

Whooping cough was very prevalent. Unfortunately no inoculation against this disease has yet proved reliable, but under Ministry supervision, extensive trials have been carried out in selected large centres of population.

From the report of the Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent it will be seen how great and varied a volume of work is carried out. It is largely on this steady day-to-day work that the safety of community health depends.

I would express my warm appreciation of the friendly co-operation of Mr. Walmsley and the staff of the Public Health Department, and also my thanks to the Clerk of the Council for his kindly help.

To the members of the Council I tender my thanks for their interest and help throughout the year, an interest clearly shown by the readiness of members to raise or discuss matters affecting public health, either in direct relation to local administration, or in relation to the County Council's Divisional Scheme.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General

Area in acres	2,868
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 census	3,573
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1950	3,821
Rateable value	£64,452
Sum represented by a penny Rate	£248
Population at 1931 census	12,876
Population, 1951 census	10,783
The principal industries are cotton weaving and light engineering trades, etc.	

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Males		Females	Total
Legitimate	67	.....	69	136
Illegitimate	8	.....	1	9
	—		—	—
Total	75		70	145
	—		—	—

Still Births

	Males		Females	Total
Legitimate	6	.....	2	8
Illegitimate	Nil	.....	Nil	Nil
	—		—	—
Total	6		2	8
	—		—	—

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births 52

Deaths

	Males		Females	Total
Deaths	91	.....	109	200
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude				18.1
Adjusted				15.4
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population				
(England and Wales)				11.6

Infant Mortality

Infants under the age of one year—

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	2	.....	0	.....	2
Illegitimate	1	.....	0	.....	1
	—		—		—
Total Deaths ...	3		0		3
	—		—		—

Comparative Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950.

Births

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	¹⁴⁸ Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
Live Births	15.80	17.60	16.70	13.10
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.73

Deaths

All causes	11.60	12.30	11.60	18.13
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.26
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.26
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.09

Rates per 1,000 Civilan Population				
	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.09
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.55	1.61	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	3.60	3.97	3.15	4.99
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	3.71
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	1.26
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioenceph- alitis), Paralytic ...	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.00
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.00

Deaths

Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.80 (a)	33.80	29.40	21.00
	(a) Per 1,000 related live births.			
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 y'rs of age	1.90	2.20	1.60	0.00

Notifications (Corrected)

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	0.00

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

The laboratory work for the district is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, and no difficulties were encountered during the year.

Tuberculosis sputum examinations are carried out at the tuberculosis dispensary situated at Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities

The ambulance service is administered by No. 5 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council. An ambulance station, which is now day-manned only, is situated in Great Harwood, and is controlled from Accrington. Night calls are dealt with by the Accrington Ambulance Station.

Infectious Diseases Cases

All infectious patients are conveyed by arrangements with infectious disease hospitals in neighbouring authorities.

Tuberculosis

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council, and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

Seven cases were removed from the register during the year, the causes of removal being as follows :—

Deaths from Tuberculosis	2
Deaths from other causes	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	2
Recovered	1
Removed	1

Fifteen cases were added to the register, and the following table shows the age group incidence of the new cases and deaths during 1950.

Ages	New Cases					Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respirat'y			Respiratory		Non-Respirat'y		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
1	-	-	...	1	-	-	-	...	-	-
2	-	-	...	3	-	-	-	...	-	-
5	-	-	...	1	-	-	-	...	-	-
10	-	-	...	-	1	-	-	...	-	-
15	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
20	1	2	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
25	1	2	...	-	-	-	1	...	-	-
35	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
45	2	1	...	-	-	-	1	...	-	-
55	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
65	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
75 & upwards	-	-	...	-	-	-	-	...	-	-
	4	5	...	5	1	...	0	2	...	0

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified :—

Disease	Total	Deaths
Measles	41	0
Whooping Cough	55	0
Pneumonia	14	0
Dysentery	128	0

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. The diphtheria immunisation administration is carried out by the Divisional Health Authority.

Home Help

The home help service is administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

Scabies

A clinic is in operation at the Fire Station Yard and is used when occasion arises. No cases were treated during the year under review.

Maternity and Child Welfare

A clinic is held at the Mercer Hall, the duties being under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, No. 5 Health Division.

Day Nurseries

Two day nurseries are in operation. Both were well attended during the year.

Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board, the source of supply being upland surface. The water is filtered and chloramine treated and has been entirely satisfactory, both in quantity and quality. Frequent sampling was carried out during the year for bacteriological and plumbo-solvent examinations, the results being satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

Sewer extensions have been carried out on the Waverledge Housing Site. Work has been completed on the new relief sewer to relieve flooding in the south end of the district.

Public Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the district, but it is hoped to install a number of public slipper baths in the near future.

Dysentery

A very large number of sonné dysentery cases occurred. These cases were almost wholly in children attending Day Nurseries in the area. The disease spreads rapidly among small children congregated together, but fortunately is mild, and is more troublesome than dangerous. Many of the children had in fact no symptoms, and infection was detected only by bacteriological investigations. A vigorous policy of carrying out tests and excluding all children found infected brought these outbreaks under control. The source of infection, as is usual, remained obscure. There is little doubt, however, that such outbreaks arise from one or two infected persons, themselves possibly showing no signs of illness, and in the fertile field afforded by a group of infants, rapid spread occurs.

Schools

No closure was necessary during the year, there being no high incidence of infectious disease amongst schoolchildren.

Mortuary

There were twelve bodies taken to the mortuary during the year.

Housing

28 houses were completed during the year, on the Waverledge Site. It was not possible during 1950 to build any of the 1950 allocation, due to the difficulty in obtaining tenders.

Repairs to existing dwelling-houses were carried out as favourably as conditions would permit. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining tenders for work in default at a number of premises.

Causes of Death

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	2	2
Tuberculosis, others	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	1	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	8	16
Leukæmia, alukæmia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	17	33
Coronary disease, angina	6	4	10
Hypertension with heart disease	11	6	17
Other heart disease	20	40	60
Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3
Influenza	0	3	3
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	16	25
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	0	1	1
Suicide	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes — Total	91	109	200

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The repair of unfit houses has been the major problem during the year, and whilst there is a shortage of building labour, this vital repair work will be retarded. Many houses are not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense; forty inspections were made of such premises, and reports were given to the Health Committee from time to time on their condition. Demolition Orders have been served on the owners of some of these premises to ensure that when the tenancy ceases the houses will no longer be used for human habitation.

When more new dwellings are erected, it will be necessary to report on the condition of more unfit houses, so that the programme of re-housing and demolition of old dwellings may proceed smoothly.

The Model Bye-laws relating to the handling and wrapping of food was adopted by the Council during the year, and although some essential provisions have not been provided, the Bye-laws are a step in the right direction.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support during the year, and to the officials and staff I tender my thanks for their co-operation at all times.

I am

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY,
Sanitary Inspector.

Food and Drugs Sampling

The Lancashire County Council sampling officers took the following samples during the year, in addition to 31 samples of milk :—

Salt	3	Jam Squares	1
Fruit Tarts	1	Camphorated Oil	1
Almonds, ground	2	Candied Peel	2
Mincemeat	2	Blancmange Powder	1
Margarine	1	Cooking Fat	1
Strawberry Jam	1	Baking Powder	1
Sild, canned	1	Herrings, canned	1

In addition to the above, two “Appeal-to-cow” samples were taken during the year.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following : —

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 formal milk.	Deficient 26.6 per cent. fat.	Prosecution. Vendor fined £2 and £6 6s. 0d. costs.

ICE-CREAM REGULATIONS

Manufacturers (hot mix)	3
Manufacturers (cold mix)	1
Vendors (shops, etc.)	24
Hawkers	1

Nine samples of ice-cream were taken for the methylene blue test. The results of the samples are as follows :—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	0	5	0	2
Cold Mix	1	0	0	1

WATER SUPPLY

Raw Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	Nil
Chemical Analyses	Nil

Treated Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	28
Chemical Analyses	3

All the water is filtered and chloramine treated. Extensions were carried out to the mains during the year on the Waverledge Housing Site.

Smoke Abatement

Three observations were taken during the year; no serious pollutions were observed, and informal action only was necessary.

Shops

Routine inspections were made during the year, and conditions were found satisfactory. The bulk of the shops in the district are combined with dwelling-houses.

MEAT AND FOOD SUPERVISION

Milk and Dairies

Number of Farms	19
Ungraded Producers	11
Accredited Producers	3
"T.T." Producers	5

Sampling—Milk

Grade of Milk	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test			Tubercle Bacilli Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.		Sat.	Unsat.		Neg.	Pos.
"T.T."	5	2	...	—	—	...	6	—
Accredited	3	—	...	—	—	...	4	—
Non-designated ...	15	5	...	—	—	...	20	1
Pasteurised	—	—	...	1	—	...	1	—
Totals	23	7	...	1	0	...	31	1

Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned Milk	409
Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	156
Fish and Tinned Meat	48
Cooking Fats, etc.	60 lbs.
Pickles	28
Meat and Poultry	105 lbs.

Meat Inspection

The slaughter of pigs is carried out at a private slaughter-house, and the following table presents a report of the activities during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number killed	1735
Number inspected	1735
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3%
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	52
Tuberculosis only—	
Whole carcasses condemned	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	148
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	8.6%

Rodent Control

This work was carried out satisfactorily during the year by a part-time rodent operator. During the maintenance treatment of the sewers 437 manholes were baited, 104 manholes showed pre-bait take, and 44 manholes showed complete takes. Very little infestation is present in the sewers on the outskirts of the town, and infestations are mainly found in the vicinity of shops, factories and food preparing premises. 94 minor infestations of rats and mice at private premises and 15 minor infestations at local authority premises were dealt with during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation

Forty-six waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets, and a grant of £6 was allowed in each case. The number and type of various closets in the district are as follows :—

	1949	1950
Pails	34	34
Fresh Water Closets	1578	1694
Waste Water Closets	2246	2200

It was not possible to convert any of the pail closets, as no sewer extensions were made in the vicinity.

Unfit Dwelling-houses

1. (a) Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	126
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	267
2. (a) Number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	18
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	22
3. (a) Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(b) Number of houses, excluding 3 (a) above, found not in all respects fit for human habitation	90
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	62

Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	28
2. Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :	
(a) By owners	17
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10
 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners 14
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
 2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

Factories

Seventy-eight inspections were made to factories, ten notices were served relating to defective, insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation.

The number of factories on the register are as follows :—

Mechanical Power	Non-Mechanical Power
94 	10

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Housing Accommodation—Interviews	8
Housing Accommodation—Visits	9
Public Health Act	
Inspections	141
Re-visits	118
Overcrowding	6
Verminous Premises	6
Housing Act	
Inspections	163
Re-visits	117
General	
Accumulations	28
Drainage	164
Defective Bins	50
Factories	66
Public Conveniences	37
Rats and Mice	81
Refuse Disposal—Tip	28
Refuse Disposal—Sundry	24
Salvage	25
Schools	18
Shops	81
Smoke Observations	3
Stables	3
Miscellaneous	160
Animals	14
Infectious Disease	
Inquiries	3
Disinfection	8
Food Premises	
Bakehouses	48
Butchers	16
Dairies	16
Farms	10
Fried Fish	16
Fruiterers	14
Ice-cream	18
Slaughterhouse	137
Restaurants	13
Unsound Food	40
Market Stalls	8

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained during the year, due to the excellent work carried out by the Health Department Outdoor Staff. With the abolition of all ashpits, every house now benefits by a weekly collection of refuse. As additional houses are being constructed, it is obvious that more time and extra haulage will be required to maintain the frequency of collection.

The new Waverledge Housing Site, due to its lay-out, means longer "carries" for the bins, and as the site is situated at the furthestmost point from the tip, the cost of refuse haulage will be increased.

The refuse vehicles have been well maintained by the drivers, and the vehicles at present in operation are one 1938 nine cubic yard side-loading Dennis, and one 1949 nine cubic yard side-loading Karrier Bantam.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping. This work has proceeded satisfactorily during the year, and the tip has remained free from rodent and insect infestations.

It was very difficult during the year to recruit new labour for refuse collection, and at one period the staff was below strength. Every endeavour was made to improve working conditions for the men, but whilst more highly-paid jobs are available the problem of obtaining suitable labour for refuse collection work will be always present.

Salvage

The income from salvage showed a slight increase from the previous year, the salvage returns for 1950 being as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	98	12	0	544	17	6
Kitchen Waste	18	15	0	9	7	6
Miscellaneous				27	16	0
Total Value	...			£582	1	0

In the early part of the year the demand for waste paper fell considerably, and at one time it was felt that a collection of this material would not be an economical proposition.

During the latter part of the year, however, the value of waste paper increased, and an effort was made to encourage the public to save their waste paper.

An intensive publicity campaign was commenced, and a salvage display was held, the results of these activities were reflected in the increased collection.

Kitchen Waste

The collection of kitchen waste by a private pig-breeder had to be discontinued in the early part of the year. The storage of kitchen waste in communal street bins left much to be desired, and in many cases the bins were used more as refuse receptacles than for the purposes for which they were intended.

It was proposed at one time to maintain the collection of kitchen waste from individual houses, but this idea had to be abandoned, due to the difficulty in obtaining the materials for this work.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Disrepair

Roofs repaired	45
Walls and chimneys repaired	29
Defective plaster renewed	33
Windows repaired	37
Fireplaces repaired	18
Stairs repaired	26
Handrails provided	7
Doors repaired	14
Floors repaired or relaid	21
Yards and passages cleansed	3
Outbuildings repaired	17
Washing accommodation provided	5
Lighting provided	4
Ventilation improved	6

Dampness Remedied

Rising	18
Penetrating	28
Sundry Defects	46

Sanitary Defects

Sewers cleansed	5
Drains cleared	303
Drains repaired	32
Drains reconstructed	24
W.W.C.s repaired	18
W.W.Cs. cleared	26
W.C.s repaired	12
W.C.s cleared	6
New drainage provided	8
Eaves gutters repaired	36
Rainwater pipes repaired	27
Sink waste pipes repaired	4
Soil pipes repaired	5
Accumulations	19
Drains tested	54
Sinks provided	21
Water supply improved	8
Water under floor	6
Articles cleaned	16



